

IN THE CLAIMS

Kindly amend the claims as indicated below.

1. (Currently Amended) A packet switched network architecture comprising a location area, a radio access network, and at least two core networks having the same functionality, the location area being a common location area connected by a ~~the~~ radio access network to the at least two core networks ~~having the same functionality~~, wherein the radio access network is configured to ~~switches~~ packet transmissions from each terminal in the common location area to one of the at least two core networks, wherein the radio access network is configured to ~~switches~~ packet transmissions from each of the terminals to a respective one of the at least two core networks ~~in dependenceet on the capacity of the respective~~ core networks, and wherein each terminal distinguishes the core network to which it is switched ~~each of said core networks is distinguished by~~ receiving a location area identifier that includes including a core network identifier field and including the core network identifier in its packet transmissions.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The packet switched network of claim 1 in which each core network includes a mobile switching center (MSC), said mobile switching center comprising a visitor location register (VLR), the VLR being configured to ~~determineing the~~ capacity of the ~~respective~~ core network.

4. (Currently Amended) A method of allocating resources by a radio access network in a packet switched mobile network, comprising: allocating at least two core networks having the same functionality to a common location area; ~~wherein each of said core networks is distinguished by a location area identifier including a core network identifier field; associating each mobile user in the location area with one of the core networks;~~ and switching, by the radio access network, packet transmissions from a each mobile user terminal in the common location area to one of the core networks ~~in~~

dependent on the capacity of the core networks by associating each mobile user terminal in the common location area with a respective one of the core networks; wherein each mobile user terminal distinguishes the core network to which it is associated by receiving a location area identifier that includes a core network identifier field and including the core network identifier in its packet transmissions.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Canceled)

7. (Canceled)